

GREENBELT News Review

An Independent Newspaper

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DECEMBER 3, 2020

Workshop with County Exec Alsobrooks Addresses Covid

by Cathie Meetre

On Monday, November 30, the Greenbelt City Council met with Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks and her staff for a two-hour worksession. After a welcome by Mayor Colin Byrd, Alsobrooks emphasized that the county was the hardest hit in the region by Covid-19, with over 39,000 cases to date and current high rates of positive testing. She felt that the county and municipalities had worked together collaboratively to do a great job for the county under these difficult circumstances and thanked Greenbelt in particular for its excellent collaboration. She noted that the county is now seeing a serious new surge in cases.

Covid-19 Response

Alsobrooks referred to the assistance programs the county has rolled out for businesses

and individuals. Prince George's County used CARES Act funding to provide grant funding to many businesses but she felt it is still not enough and in particular that the resources needed to sustain the hotel industry would have to come from the federal government. With the pandemic continuing, the conferences and gatherings on which county hotels rely continue to be cancelled.

The restaurant resiliency fund has given grants averaging \$12,000 per business but there is still some funding available.

With well over 157,000 residents filing for unemployment, the county has provided \$200 gift cards to many (in addition to other unemployment benefits) and is working hard to get residents re-employed. She noted that any

See **WORKSESSION**, page 8

Festival of Lights Becomes Virtual this December 2020

by Matthew Arbach



PHOTO BY JILL CONNOR

Evander Crompton, 2, of Greenbelt, gets some candy from Santa before Santa lights the tree in Roosevelt Center in 2017.

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

The 2020 Festival of Lights is underway now, in spite of the pandemic, using a virtual and socially distant approach. This includes the traditional Art and Craft Fair, as well as several other citywide events.

The Juried Art and Craft Fair is being held online through December 20. Shoppers can participate by using greenbeltdmd.gov/craft. For those interested in a free at-home craft workshop, appropriate for all ages, go to greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation to register.

At Roosevelt Center, the trees and hedges have been decorated with hundreds of lights and a traditional live tree will be set up and decorated. Mindful of the need to maintain social distance, there will not be a public lighting ceremony of the tree and no

prior announcement of the lighting of the plaza this year. Arts Supervisor Nicole DeWald said, "starting in mid-December, residents are encouraged to enjoy the lights and the tree during solitary strolls or from their car windows as they do a drive-through along Centerway."

The North Pole Calling event will return this year unchanged from previous years. As reported by DeWald, this is "a long-standing event that brings magic and fun during the holiday season." Parents are encouraged to obtain and submit a North Pole Calling form via the city website. On December 15 to 17, Santa and his helpers will make a special call to chat with each child. This is a free event for children in preschool through second grade.

In place of the usual Nutcracker dance production entitled The New Deal Nut: A Greenbelt

See **FESTIVAL**, page 6

Effective Altruism Precepts Guide Engineer's Way of Life

by Melissa Sites

The last month of the year inspires many people to give money to good causes. NASA engineer Brian Ottens and his family have dedicated themselves to effective altruism, giving away a high percentage of their income. Effective altruism motivates and empowers individuals to select the cause that is most important to them and then figure out how to make the greatest impact. According to Ottens, effective altruism means "giving with your heart and your head. Your heart motivates you to think of others, and your head guides you to do the most for them" by selecting organizations and tactics that have the greatest benefit for the causes you care most about.

Ottens's personal cause is the reduction of suffering, which to him "is more important than the creation of happiness." Practitioners of effective altruism, Ottens states, "spend time rating how important a problem is or what priority it should get. [For example], if someone buys a piece of expensive art and donates it to a museum, how would that



PHOTO COURTESY THE OTTENS FAMILY

From left, Emily, Jessica Blacksten, Brian Ottens and Sherlock

compare against the alleviation of suffering they could've done?" Ottens argues, "A gain in happiness and a reduction of suffering aren't equal," while acknowledg-

ing that not everyone would agree.

In 2001, after being motivated

See **ALTRUISM**, page 5

Freeze on Evictions Rejected By Close Vote of City Council

by Diane Oberg

The proposed eviction freeze died in a 3-3 tie at the November 23 regular meeting of the Greenbelt City Council. Legislation banning rent rate increases and late fees passed. Earlier that day Governor Lawrence Hogan had announced \$19 million in Maryland Eviction Prevention Partnership grants, \$2,672,725 of which are designated for Prince George's County. It was not yet known whether or how much of this money would be available to Greenbelters.

Eviction Freeze

The ordinance would have declared a freeze on evictions for failure to pay rent effective im-

mediately through December 31, 2021, or 60 days after the end of the county state of emergency. It provided that council may review requests for waivers of this ordinance and that landlords who violate this ordinance shall be subject to "a separate municipal violation of Five Hundred (\$500.00) Dollars for each day for each separate violation." The ordinance would have applied to all landlords regardless of the number of units they rent.

Mayor Colin Byrd, Councilmembers Rodney Roberts and Judith Davis voted for the or-

dinance, Councilmembers Silke Pope, Edward Putens and Leta Mach voted no and Councilmember Emmett Jordan abstained. Jordan said he was abstaining because the law is unenforceable and he is concerned about the city's "out of control legal expenses." When questioned why he did not just vote no, Jordan replied that he did not want to "stand in the way."

The vote was preceded by a lengthy and wide-ranging discussion of the eviction freeze. The issues raised included:

See **EVICTIONS**, page 11

What Goes On

Monday, December 7

8 p.m. City Council Worksession: Combined Properties (Greenway Center)

Wednesday, December 9

8 p.m. Council Worksession: NASA Goddard Facility Update

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltdmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.

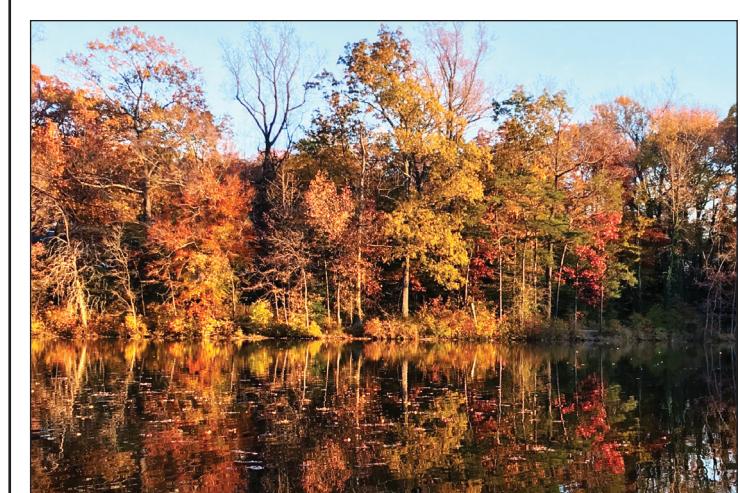


PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

Fall foliage at the Lake

Letters to the Editor

New Deal Cafe

Deja Vu?

The New Deal Café (NDC) Cooperative has terminated the contract of the café's restaurant management, DC Vegan (DCV), who will vacate this week. They did this after serving legal "papers" to DCV, requiring them to abide by their contract including opening up for lunch and expanding their hours to pre-Covid conditions. DCV was brought in after a nationwide search and request for proposals to run the café's restaurant operations had no proposal submissions. The café was near to closing and bankruptcy after having terminated the Lebanese restaurant management a year earlier and spending up \$250K in operations funding donated and secured by the café community.

DCV brought in a new clientele of diverse ages and backgrounds not seen in the café's 25-year history. The café became a destination for customers seeking good vegan food with many coming from outside of Greenbelt. DCVs catering supported Senator Cory Booker's campaign with food during his run for the Presidential nomination, with NDC receiving by contract a portion of all DCV profits. The DCV receipts noted the amount of energy, water and carbon saved by eating a plant-based meal there. When Covid arose, DCV teamed with a local church to distribute donated meals to the community in need.

The competency and passion for serving our greater community professionally and with heart will be missed by many. Losing a food provider anytime causes a disruption to the New Deal:

doing so during a pandemic, when many restaurants are closing or are expected to not make it in 2021, risks even greater upheaval and uncertainty.

Happy 25th Anniversary this December 29th NDC, I hope you will survive this. I have been and will always be there to help through hard times, but do you really know what you are doing? As a former NDC board president whose board members and volunteers struggled mightily and successfully to bring the café back from certain bankruptcy after another board's poor management ... I don't think so.

Peter I. May

THANKS

Thank you, Greenbelt police force, for your professionalism early on Saturday, November 28. Very loud, noisy arguments across the street woke me up at about 3:40 a.m. One male voice in particular. The noise just went on and on and on. Then two female-sounding screams.

Around 4:20 a.m., quiet lights crossing my room ceiling. The loud voices hushed. Outside was a police car, with its red-and-blue roof lights on "steady." (No possibly-rousing flashing. Good idea!) Another car had orange caution lights on its roof. The kind of "moving" caution lights used at traffic accident scenes. Gets people's attention without frightening them.

Thank you, police, for your use of "de-escalation" measures. The harsh, loud voices went quiet. There was peace. The car roof lights went out. The cars drove away. Quiet, restful darkness returned to my section of Greenbelt. Relief . . .

Officers, a big "Thank you" for a hard job done well.

Name withheld

GCPS Mission

Three times is a charm. Our Greenbelt Citizens for Public Safety (GCPS) held its third rally on Saturday, November 14, to show appreciation and support for Greenbelt's police and first responders. We thank all those who came out on a chilly morning to attend and support the rally and those who gave us the thumbs up and honked their horns.

During the rally a self-described independent blogger-journalist stopped by and asked about our rally, the group and its purpose, goals, platform. Several other citizens have recently asked about our organization as well. GCPS has recently defined its purpose or mission statement:

- GCPS is a grassroots organization dedicated to ensuring adequate public safety for all Greenbelt residents, visitors and first responders.

- We define first responders as police, fire and emergency medical services.

- We stand in support of first responders serving the needs of the Greenbelt community.

- Through our advocacy and support we envision an environment of sustainable funding for our first responders in the performance of their duties.

- We oppose measures that divert or defund resources essential to public safety which would adversely impact our first responders' responsibilities in carrying out their work in maintaining public safety.

Robert Snyder on behalf of
Greenbelt Citizens for
Public Safety

Service Side or Garden Side?



Well folks, we are going to circle around one more time.

Hopefully, the world is different when we land.

B. Glee



Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.
- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.
- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.

Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.

GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.



Members of Greenbelt Citizens for Public Safety gather to show their support for and appreciation of the Greenbelt police at a rally on Saturday, November 14.



PHOTO BY MARA HEMMINGER

Nature makes an impression in the form of leaf patterns on the sidewalk.

Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.



See our website,
greenbeltnewsreview.com,
for articles in Spanish.

Community Events

At the Library

The Greenbelt Library has modified its curbside pickup procedure for the winter. Effective December 1, items should be retrieved from the tables placed outside the lower-level entrance. Staff will not come to customers' vehicles unless a customer indicates a need for assistance in their appointment request.

Curbside service hours are now Tuesdays to Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m. by appointment only.

Biblio Consulta

The library's new Spanish language call center is available by calling 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays to Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m.

3D Printing

The library's 3D printing program is available for customer print jobs that can then be picked up through curbside service. For more information visit pgcmls.info/3d-printing.

Mobile HotSpots

Families can borrow mobile hotspot devices for up to nine weeks at a time. Adults 18 and older with library cards in good standing may request a SmartSpot through the curbside booking form. One device per household may be borrowed. No LINK or student accounts will be allowed.

Read Woke Challenge

The library is participating in the Read Woke Challenge, a national initiative to encourage reading, personal growth and racial and social equity. Readers of all ages are encouraged to read or listen to at least five books by Tuesday, December 15 that explore diversity, inclusion, equity, anti-racism and the many perspectives of the human experience. Readers can register on Beanstack to participate. All who log five titles through December 15 will be entered to win a \$50 Amazon gift card raffle.

Book Returns

Books must be returned at the external book drop at the library. Per the latest CDC guidelines, all returned materials need to be in quarantine for three days before being checked in and processed. Accounts should clear of most returned items after five days, which may result in items temporarily displaying as overdue. Although the Prince George's County Memorial Library System (PGCMLS) adopted a fine-free policy effective July 1, the cost of items that remain overdue for more than 30 days may be charged to a customer's account as lost items until they are returned. The library appreciates the timely return of all items since this helps maintain the availability of the collection for all customers, especially in light of the increased processing time.

Play "I Spy..."

Although PGCMLS library buildings are closed to the public, the Greenbelt Library welcomes families to stop by the upper-level entrance to view the "I Spy..." discovery station. Library staff have created a display of various items to be viewed through the glass. Remember to observe social distancing etiquette during your exploration.



Virtual Library Programs

PGCMLS hosts a virtual premiere of the documentary on Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, The Library That Dolly Built, on Wednesday, December 9 at 7 p.m. This North American premiere features a live Q&A and song from Dolly herself after the screening. Co-sponsored by Old Greenbelt Theatre.

Authors for Truth: A Question of Freedom, Tuesday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Historian William G. Thomas III discusses his new book, A Question of Freedom: The Families Who Challenged Slavery from the Nation's Founding to the Civil War. For 70 plus years and five generations, the enslaved families of Prince George's County filed hundreds of suits for their freedom against a powerful circle of slaveholders, taking their cause all the way to the Supreme Court. Thomas is interviewed by Renée Battle-Brooks, executive director of the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission, which is co-presenting the event.

Don't Ask Me Where I'm From, Thursday, December 10 at 7 p.m. Author Jennifer DeLeon discusses her debut young adult novel, Don't Ask Me Where I'm From. The story follows Liliana Cruz, a first-generation American Latinx who does what it takes to fit in at her new nearly all-white school. When family secrets spill out and racism at school ramps up, she must decide what she believes in and take a stand. DeLeon will be interviewed by Lupita Aquino (@Lupita.Reads) and Nicholas Brown of PGCMLS. Co-presented with the Prince George's County Human Relations Commission.

Community Conversation: Accessing Health Insurance, Thursday, December 10 at 4 p.m. Special guests from Prince George's County Health Connect discuss opportunities for Prince Georgians to enroll in health care through Maryland Health Connect. Hosted by Aishar Pinnock, Director of Talent & Culture, PGCMLS. Co-presented with Prince George's County Health Connect.

Greenbelt Arts Center Directors Workshop

On Tuesday, December 8 from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., members of the Greenbelt Arts Center's play-reading committee will provide a Zoom workshop for directors, or aspiring directors, who would like guidance concerning submitting play proposals. They will advise about what the committee looks for and answer questions about the process and any other relevant concerns.

The link to access the Zoom workshop can be obtained online at greenbeltartscenter.org.

GAC online

GUTENBERG! THE MUSICAL!

by Anthony King and Scott Brown, directed by Zach Walsh

Online: Fridays and Saturdays, December 11, 12, 18 and 19
greenbeltartscenter.org

Coming Soon: Twelfth Night: Jan 8 - 10



Online Musical Comedy About Printing Press

On Fridays and Saturdays, December 11, 12, 18 and 19, the Greenbelt Arts Center will present a hilarious online performance of GUTENBERG! THE MUSICAL! written by Anthony King and Scott Brown. The show follows the comedic misadventures of two hapless writers as they perform their premier reading of their exciting new musical – a biography of Johannes Gutenberg, inventor of the printing press. The online show is directed by award-winning filmmaker Zack Walsh, and stars Capital Fringe Festival favorites David Koenigsberg and Aria Velz. For tickets and more information see greenbeltartscenter.org.

Celebrate Greenbelt Community Art

Artist-in-Residence Rachel Cross will lead participants in Hopes and Dreams for our Community, a community art event on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Participants will come to the turn-around area between the Community Center and the Aquatic & Fitness Center (GAFC), receive art materials through contactless pick-up, create their art in the comfort of their cars and then add their work to a collaborative community art piece on the GAFC fence. The community art will celebrate and display our hopes and dreams for Greenbelt and surrounding community. If you would like to participate, sign up at atsignupgenius.com/go/2020communityart.

New Coats and Books

In partnership with Operation Warm, the Library is offering a complimentary new coat and book to 500 children ages 2 to 18 on Saturday, December 12 from 10 a.m. to noon. Advance registration is required by clicking the branch location link preferred for pick up: Largo-Kettering, Laurel, Oxon Hill or Spauldings or by calling 240-455-5451 (Tuesdays to Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m.; Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.) by Wednesday, December 9. The New Carrollton Branch is also hosting an Operation Warm event, but registration is at capacity. A limited number of coats are available per size and per location. This Operation Warm event is sponsored by the PGCMLS Foundation and Wawa, and supported by the Prince George's County Office of Latino Affairs.

Available sizes are 2T to Adult XL. There is a limit of two coats per family and one coat per child. The requested coat will only be available at the location specified during registration. Face masks and physical distancing are required for pickup (whether in a vehicle or on foot). For more information in both English and Spanish, visit pgcmls.info.

Learn About Latkes With Mishkan Torah

Join Mishkan Torah's expert latke maker Phil Williams on Zoom on Sunday, December 13 at 12:30 p.m., to learn how to make these delectable treats.

Free registration is required. To register and receive the link, send an email to WaysandMeans2@mishkantorah.org.

While most are familiar with the candle lighting, and playing the dreidel game, eating oil-based fried foods is also a traditional component of a correct Hanukkah celebration. Oil-based foods honor the "miracle of the lights" in the story of the Maccabees. As the story goes, an enemy desecrated the Temple in Jerusalem, which contained the sacred lamp called the menorah. Even though they were outnumbered, the Jewish people went on to win the battle. When Judah Maccabee, the leader of the Maccabees, returned to the Temple in Jerusalem, the first thing he did was to restore the sacred lamp. There was almost no oil left – only enough for one day. However, the menorah was filled with this oil and lit, and miraculously instead of lasting only one day, it burned brighter, and brighter, lasting eight days. Jewish people remember this by eating symbolic foods, as they do on other Jewish holidays.

The ultimate meaning of the holiday – which, after all, means "dedication" – is about rededicating ourselves, as the Maccabees had to rededicate the defiled Temple.

Latkes (a.k.a. potato pancakes or levivot in Hebrew) are simple fare and delicious. Those registered for the session will receive the recipe and should gather ingredients ready to hand. Phil will guide participants through his step-by-step process. Happy Hanukkah!

Scouting for Food Through December 5

Cub Scout Pack 202, Greenbelt's oldest operating scout pack, is again participating in Scouting for Food. This year, in an effort to keep scouts and community friends safe, there will be drop-off points. The scouts will be decorating and posting signs in their yards that read (in part) Pack 202 Cub Scout Scouting for Food Drop-Off Point. Canned and non-perishable items in boxes or bags can be dropped off until Friday, December 4. On Saturday, December 5, residents may drop off donations at Greenbelt Community Church (1 Hillside Road) parking lot from 10 a.m. to noon where the scouts will be sorting and packing the goods for local food pantries. For information (including the closest drop-off point), contact marcavitch@gmail.com.

Additionally, for local families interested in getting involved in scouting, Pack 202 is always looking for scouts in the equivalent grades of kindergarten to fourth grade. Most programs are currently virtual but with great fellowship; the group hopes to have outdoor programs in the spring.

December Virtual Community Tea

The Greenbelt Virtual Community Tea meets on the second Thursday of each month. The next tea will be on Thursday, December 10, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Open to all. Feel free to stop by for a moment or stay a while. These teas are strictly social, no "agenda." Sometimes serious topics (Covid-19, Black Lives Matter) are discussed, other times lighter topics (favorite Netflix, where to get take-out food). To access the Zoom link, visit facebook.com/pg/greenbeltimebank/events/. Questions can be directed to greenbeltimebank@gmail.com.



GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION

Friday December 4 - Thursday December 10

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

CONNECT WITH GATE ON



7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	Classic Movies ★ Sci-Fi/Horror • 1959	• The Wasp Woman • Susan Cabot • Directed by Roger Corman and Jack Hill
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel SAT/SUN Member Spotlight	• or Selections From the GATE Archive • GATE Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS	• Montpelier v Beacon Heights • Cherokee Lane v Magnolia
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
3 pm	Classic Movies ★ Sci-Fi/Horror • 1959	• The Wasp Woman • Susan Cabot • Directed by Roger Corman and Jack Hill
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPS SAT/SUN Member Spotlight	• Montpelier v Beacon Heights • Cherokee Lane v Magnolia • GATE Community Producers
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
8 pm	Classic Movies ★ Sci-Fi/Horror • 1959	• The Wasp Woman • Susan Cabot • Directed by Roger Corman and Jack Hill
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
 STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltimebank.org/channel-live-stream

GCC Coordinates Holiday Giving for Those in Need

by Jo-Anne Fournier

The Board of Congregational Life at Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (GCC) is working on celebrating Christmas and helping their neighbors. They have worked out the logistics and communicated with representatives of three programs in the Greenbelt area.

To help local families in need of basic support they are collecting gift cards and working with school counselors at Greenbelt Elementary, Springhill Lake Elementary and Magnolia Elementary. GCC has learned that the school counselors are happy to distribute \$25 gift cards from the Co-op Supermarket, Safeway, Giant and Target. Gift cards should be sent to the church office no later than Sunday, December 13. Checks can be mailed to the church (GCC, 1 Hillside Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770) with the memo line saying "schools".

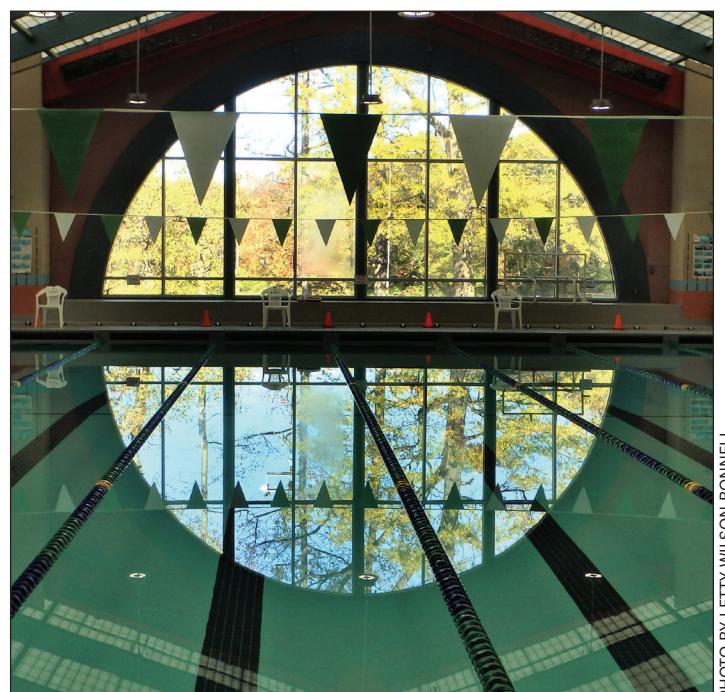


PHOTO BY LETTY WILSON BONNELL

At the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center, the illusion of an oculus is created by the calm symmetry of the bright November light coming through the semi-circular window at the deep end of the pool and the reflections in the motionless water.



Worship with us at
Greenbelt Baptist Church

Biblical
Confessional
Reformed
Gospel Centered

Join us OUTSIDE Sundays
at 10:00am/Wednesdays
(online) at 7:00pm
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
Instagram/Facebook/Youtube

«101 Greenhill Rd. Greenbelt MD»
www.greenbeltbaptist.org
301-474-4212
@GreenbeltBaptist

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org

“O SON OF BEING! Busy not thyself with this world, for with fire We test the gold, and with gold We test Our servants.” – Bahá’u’lláh



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

Greenbelt Community Church
United Church of Christ

Join Us on Facebook Live this Sunday at 10:15

Advent 2

Sharing Comforting Ways

1 Hillside Road

301-474-6171 Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

ST. HUGH OF GRENOBLE CATHOLIC CHURCH

RETURN TO PUBLIC CELEBRATION

With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.
www.sthughofgrenoble.org



Obituaries

David Haberman

David Isadore Haberman, 94, died November 22, 2020. Born and raised in Baltimore, he graduated from Baltimore City College High School in 1942. He served in the Army Air Force as a radio operator from 1944 to 1946 and graduated from George Washington University Law School in 1953, serving until 1972 as a Justice Department antitrust trial attorney. In 1974 he testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee investigating the role of the oil cartel during the Middle-East Oil Crisis.

Haberman became an early pioneer of automated litigation support with his invention, development and demonstration of one of the first prototypes to integrate micrographic document imaging, and electronic information-storage-and-retrieval technologies.

Between 1972 and 1974 he was public defender for indigent, civilly committed patients at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Washington

ton, D.C. From 1974 until his retirement in 1981, he was a trial attorney with the Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition.

In 1988, Haberman became a family mediator, serving regularly with the D.C. and Prince George's County Courts while maintaining a limited private mediation practice and was an active volunteer on the Greenbelt Community Mediation Board for several years.

Since 2007 he had lived in Laurel with his wife, Virginia Haberman. He is also survived by his family: children Barry Keller (Anna); Valerie Hughes; his stepson, John McClure (Tammy); his sister Charlotte (Shani) Lerner and nieces, Beth Hecht (David) and Laura Rashkin (Ian), and his nephew, Steven Land (Deborah).

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to the ACLU. Private burial will be at Ft. Lincoln Cemetery in Brentwood.

Material for this obituary courtesy of the Washington Post.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present. You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.


Our sympathies are extended to the family of David Haberman who was a member of Greenbelt's Community Mediation Board for several years. Mr. Haberman died November 22. He was 94.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



Meeting Scheduled On Policing Reform

Greenbelt Community Church (GCC) invites the community to join together Sunday, December 6 from 7 to 8 p.m. for a discussion on policing reform efforts in Greenbelt. GCC partners with Coming to the Table (CTTT), a national organization that works to create a just and truthful society that acknowledges and seeks to heal from the racial wounds of the past, from slavery and the many forms of racism it spawned. CTTT practices Circle Communication, an effective tool that maximizes sharing and respectfulness. To participate, email kenlittlefield1@aol.com for Zoom meeting information.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors
Find us on  facebook.com/mowattumc
301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings



The Bible Says...

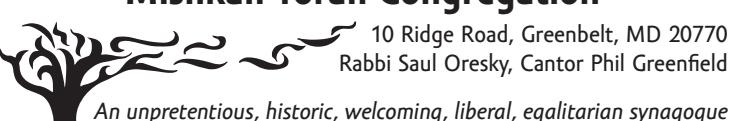
The Ten Commandments
#8-You Shall Not Steal

Exodus 20:15



Sunday Worship Services
10a-11a ONLINE
MCFcc.org/online

Mishkan Torah Congregation

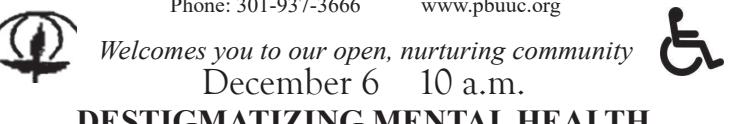

10 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770
Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

Friday evening services at 8:00pm
Saturday morning services at 10:00am
All services and activities are currently virtual
For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org
Affiliated with these movements: Conservative and Reconstructing Judaism

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi
Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org


Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community
December 6 10 a.m.
DESTIGMATIZING MENTAL HEALTH

Lay Leader Reese Myrdon; with Worship Associates Susannah Schiller and Nori Myrdon-Ward

In 2019, when NFL quarterback Andrew Luck decided to retire due to the mental strain of playing football, the fans booed him off the field. A stigma is when someone views you negatively because of a distinguishing characteristic or personal trait that's thought to be a disadvantage. We accept people asking for accommodations or help when they have physical health concerns, but we often don't do the same for those with a mental illness. How can we change that?

ONLINE ONLY, streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

ALTRUISM continued from page 1

to reduce animal suffering after viewing undercover footage from a slaughterhouse, Ottens put together a workable budget and decided to give away any money he had left over. Ottens, who calls himself a free thinker, grew up in a moderately religious Catholic family that instilled "principles of empathizing with others who were truly suffering and in need. Most non-human animals are capable of suffering just as humans are. There's excellent support in our society for reducing that suffering" either by legislative or other tactics. Either way, Ottens argues, "These tactics need funds to be successful."

Ottens states, "The importance, tractability and neglectedness (ITN) framework is a common one in effective altruism." First, Ottens would consider the magnitude and scale of the problem.

Second, he asks what can be done about it: "What (and how much) will one's contribution to an area, such as money or time, do to change the situation?" Third, "If you don't act on the situation, will someone else?"

Resources that rank charities for effectiveness include GiveWell, Animal Charity Evaluators or 80,000 Hours (so-called because that's the average length of a career). According to Ottens, these resources "have professional researchers and evaluators who do nothing else but review charities, publish findings and data, and make tiers of recommendations, going beyond simply publishing the percentage of a charity's income that goes to overhead. I do single out charities that are most effective for my support. Right now, the charities I view most favorably are The Humane League and The Good Food Institute."

Effective altruism is not about "total deprivation," which would be unsustainable, Ottens explains. "We do make expenditures for things that truly bring a return on quality of life. For example, the quality of life we experience in Greenbelt is worth it to us. We also love fresh fruit and produce, and grow our grocery budget when these are available. We have other hobbies with modest budgets." The family also puts away money for their daughter's education, their retirement and emergency expenses. "We educate ourselves to make good financial decisions and look at what truly makes humans sustainably happy, which generally isn't more luxuries or consumption." Ottens strongly feels that practitioners of effective altruism "aren't judging against perfection, but rather, trying to be practical and do better. I've seen so many people stretch themselves too far and burn out. Life is a marathon and not a sprint, and just like a marathon, if you go out too hard, your body will crash and perform worse than if you ran sustainably."

Ottens has worked at NASA since 1997, and is currently the chief engineer for the U.S. contribution to Europe's first Mars rover (a sensor for detecting underground biosignatures). His wife, Jessica Blacksten, is an elementary school STEM teacher. They have a 9-year-old daughter, Emily. Ottens grew up in New Carrollton, and graduated from Eleanor Roosevelt High School, where he ran cross country. He attended the University of Maryland, and enjoys seeing people

he knew from high school and college, whose children are now friends with his daughter. The family was strongly attracted to Greenbelt because of "the parks, lovely homes, strong community, affordable housing prices, quality schools, and proximity to jobs and family. The block we live on now was one I came to appreciate during the fall months of running cross country at Roosevelt, with the gorgeous views of yellow, orange and red leaves on the trees."

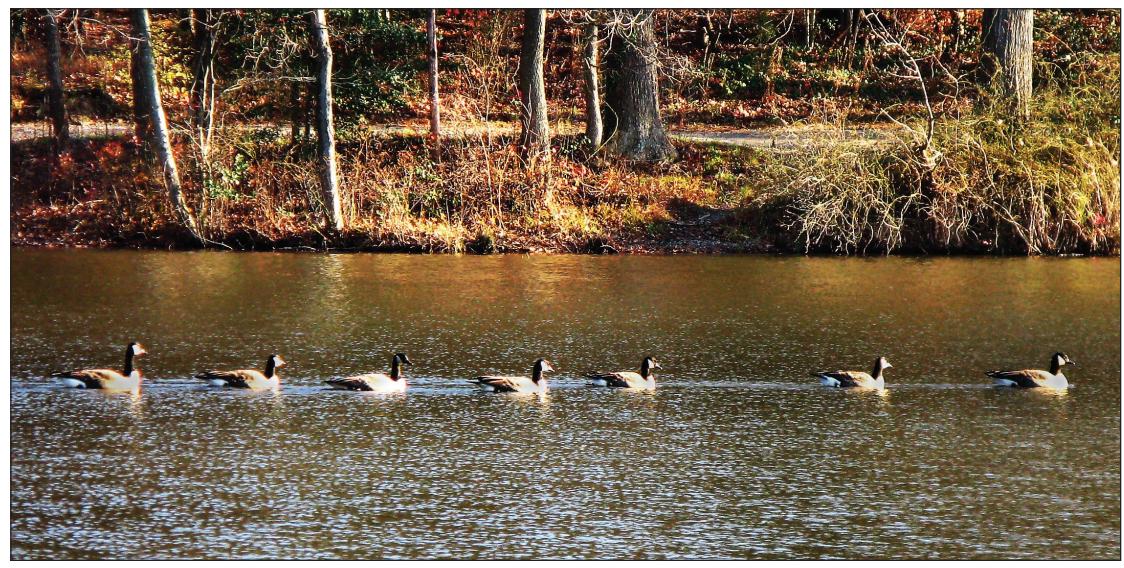


PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA

Ducks swim in a row at Greenbelt Lake.



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR DECEMBER 7-11

Monday, December 7 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION w/Combined Properties/Greenway Center** Virtual meeting will be shown live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION**, Virtual Meeting. On the Agenda: Planning for Principals' Meeting (January 26, 2021), Math Club at GES, and Grants Review

Tuesday, December 8 at 7:00pm, **PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**, Virtual Meeting. On the Agenda: Fair & Just Policing Policy

Wednesday, December 9 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: NASA Goddard Facility Update**, Virtual meeting will be shown live on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 & 996 and streaming on www.greenbeltdmd.gov/municipalv

Thursday, December 10 at 7:00pm, **FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD**, Virtual Meeting. On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Community Feedback, Greenbelt Fair & Just Policing Act Proposal, Council Referral on Racial Equity Legislation, Reports from CRAB

This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltdmd.gov.



Visit the [@cityofgreenbelt](https://www.facebook.com/cityofgreenbelt) on Facebook for Shop Small postings.

SHOP SMALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Support Greenbelt's local businesses. Shop Small in Greenbelt through the holiday season. Post about your Shop Small experience or post a picture of you shopping small and hashtag them with #shopsmallgreenbelt. We will be on the lookout for the posts and will be giving out Shop Small Greenbelt Face Masks and Hand Sanitizers.

For more information call 301- 474-8000



SEEKING LIFEGUARDS AND POOL MANAGERS!

The Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center is now hiring lifeguards! Apply now at www.greenbeltdmd.gov/jobs

AMERICAN LEGION 33RD ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

Premiering on Friday, December 11th at 6pm
On City of Greenbelt Facebook and YouTube@Cityofgreenbelt
Watch as we recognize this year's outstanding public safety personnel!

For city information, meetings, events, services and more visit www.greenbeltdmd.gov

FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS

The City of Greenbelt looks forward to celebrating the winter holidays with you. Programs will be tailored to the prevailing conditions. Please visit the Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center for event information as it is announced. Also, mark your calendar for these upcoming programs:



GREENBELT FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS JURIED ART AND CRAFT FAIR

ONLINE: GREENBELTMD.GOV/RECREATION

BLACK FRIDAY (NOV. 27) - DECEMBER 20

57 LOCAL ARTISANS, AUTHORS AND NON-PROFITS

Mosaic by Celeste Kelly

NORTH POLE CALLING

Chat with Santa about the holidays!

Tuesday, December 15-Thursday, December 17

5:30pm - 8:30pm

Ages pre-school through second grade - FREE

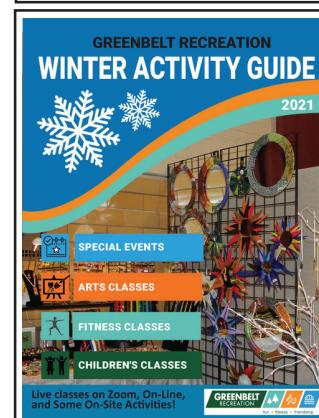


Santa and his helpers will make a special call to your home to check whether your kids are being naughty or nice. Complete the informational flyer available online on our Greenbelt Virtual Recreation Center for your child's opportunity to chat.

EMERGENCY DIAPER PICK-UP

Need help with diapers? In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, The Greenbelt Nursery Project is supporting needy Prince George's county families by distributing diapers on Thursday, December 17th, 2020.

Parents are required to bring state-issued photo ID, each child's birth certificate, proof of Prince George's residency (mail from a federal, state, or local government agency which display their name and Prince George's county residential address) - if it is their first time attending the event. No walk-ups accepted. Please register online at <https://forms.gle/ocb2V1ZuV3LrYGq26>. Registration required. Time and location given upon submitted registration.



Greenbelt Recreation
www.greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation
301-397-2200

Winter Activity Guide Now Available Online!

Registration begins on Monday, November 23 for Greenbelt Residents. Classes begin the week of January 4, 2021

Check out our Winter 2021 Activity Guide for more details!

Explore our Activity Guide for lots of options for all ages and interests. We offer seasonal special events and varied recreation facilities and classes to provide opportunities for community celebrations, a chance to learn something new or improve your skills in an activity you enjoy, all while socializing and staying active!

Please visit our Virtual Recreation Center online or give us a call for more information.

FESTIVAL continued from page 1

Nutcracker, the online Nutcracker-To-Go program is being offered instead. Aimed at children ages 3 to 8, Program Director Angella Foster said that "the idea is to bring the magic of the Nutcracker right into your living room in a new, fun and interactive format." Each class, which runs from December 14 to 18, 4:15 to 5 p.m. via Zoom, includes learning choreography from the long-standing show and making daily crafts with a Nutcracker Fun Kit. Participants will be able to access recordings of each class and of last year's production "so they can keep dancing throughout the holiday season," added Foster. Registration remains open with some slots still available.

A new video program from Greenbelt Recreation, entitled Light Up the Night with Hope: A Celebration of Music and Sharing, will debut in the Virtual Recreation Center on Saturday, December 12. Musical performances will feature the Eleanor Roosevelt High School Gospel Choir and Women's Chamber Ensemble, Greenbelt Recreation's Creative Kids Camp and Greenbelt vocalists Amanda Sorenson and Aidan Larkin. There will be a segment entitled A Candle in the Window, which is a poignant succession of clips showing Greenbelt staffers and community service personnel placing a lighted candle in the windows of their respective facilities and waving to viewers, adding that the program also highlights how Greenbelt responds to neighbors in need, focusing on three programs that address food insecurity. DeWald said, "the aim is to assure the community that all Greenbelt institutions and facilities are keeping watch through the pandemic and looking forward with hope and confidence to welcoming everyone again."

This is the 48th year of the Festival of Lights, which began in 1972.

City Notes

With coronavirus rates increasing, Recreation staff posted more mask-mandating signs. Classes transitioned to Zoom, with recreation centers operating under limited conditions. The Community Center reopened after tracing and testing of a possible coronavirus contact and the Greenbelt Aquatic & Fitness Center closed, pending testing, after a possible exposure.

Building Maintenance supervised painting at the Police Station and Street Maintenance/Special Details removed graffiti from the Community Center. Refuse/Recycling collected 25.13 tons of refuse and 9.92 tons of recyclables.

Planning and Community Development inspected 12 rental properties virtually.

Sustainability/Environmental counseled an Eagle Scout about her bird/bee project.

Horticulture/Parks installed holiday lights at Roosevelt Center. Recreation and Public Information staff are filming a virtual holiday event, Light Up the Night with Hope.

Therapeutic Recreation coordinated delivery of meals and handmade Thanksgiving cards to 38 seniors. The Greenbelt Assistance in Living (GAIL) program and volunteers served produce and non-perishable foods to 612 residents in 162 cars, and delivered frozen meals to 135 residents' homes.



Cathy Hoover Groen of Slingclay Sculptural Pottery is a member of the Greenbelt Pottery Group, based at the Community Center. Here she poses with some of her sculptural pottery, which is for sale at the virtual Art and Craft Fair.



John Kerr of Into the Woods creates one of his hand-turned wooden bowls in his studio.

- Photos by John Kerr



This year's virtual Art and Craft Fair features 57 professional craft vendors, writers and nonprofits. See pictures, videos and links to the individual online stores at greenbeltdmd.gov/craft. Many of the vendors are offering pickup from the Community Center to save shipping costs. The show runs through December 20.



The Greenbelt News Review Seeks Advertising Staff

Duties:

- Record incoming display or classified ads
- Advise advertisers on ad sizing and composition
- Size and price ads
- Prepare ads for publication
- Check proofs

Qualifications Desired:

- Working knowledge of Excel, Word & File Explorer
- Ability to organize information and follow processes
- Ability to interact effectively by phone and email
- Attention to detail

We work in the Community Center at one or more of three weekly times. Monday and Tuesday, 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, 6 to 8 p.m. We take safety to heart and our large office hosts only four staff simultaneously

Compensation: GNR is a worker cooperative. Members receive dividends based on the newspaper's financial performance. Dividends are token payments only.

To apply: email ads@greenbeltnewsreview.com with a brief description of your qualifications and experience.



Russ Little, a full-time studio artist, creates wearable hand-dyed fiber art works in his studio.

PHOTO BY DAN RYAN

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

GHI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Thursday, December 3, 2020



- A. **GHI Special Open Session – starts at 7:00 p.m. (open to members and visitors)**
 - Approve Motion to Hold an Executive Session Meeting on December 3, 2020
- B. **GHI Executive Session – starts after the GHI Special Open Session Meeting adjourns (closed to members and visitors)**
 - Approve Minutes of Executive Session Meeting Held on November 5, 2020
 - Contract for 2021 Property and Business Owners' Insurance Coverage – 1st Reading
 - Proposed Procurement of an Integrated Property Management Software System – 1st reading
- C. **GDC Regular Open Session – starts after the GHI Executive Session Meeting adjourns (open to members and visitors)**
 - Effects of Recent P.G. County and City of Greenbelt Legislation re: Landlord - Tenant Matters on GHI Operations
 - Review 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
- D. **GHI Regular Open Session Meeting – begins after the GHI Executive Session Meeting adjourns (open to members and visitors)**
 - Announcement of Executive Session Meeting Held on December 3, 2020
 - Approve Minutes of Special Open Session Meeting Held on November 5, 2020
 - Approve Minutes of Regular Open Session Meeting Held on November 5, 2020
 - Need to Upgrade GHI's Website
 - Review 2020 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
 - Companion Animal Committee Report for July 2019 to July 2020
 - Next Steps re: Succession Planning Task Force Report on Transition and Sustainability Issues
 - Exterior Building and Yard Inspection Task Force Report
 - Effects of Recent Prince George's County and City of Greenbelt Legislation re: Landlord-Tenant Matters on GHI Operations
 - Joint-Use Agreement with City of Greenbelt re: Utilization of Maryland Natural Resources Program Funds for Renovation of a GHI Playground
 - Request to Establish a Board Policy re: Storage of Vehicles in GHI's Boat Lots

Contact information for attending the Open Session Meetings, which will be held via a Zoom electronic platform due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is as follows:

Time: Dec 3, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)
Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81878885044?pwd=YmlQZk1QdGxQQkpKdIY5UEdJvNNoQT09>
Meeting ID: 818 7888 5044
Passcode: 928467

One tap mobile
+13017158592,,81878885044#,,0#,928467# US (Washington D.C)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
Meeting ID: 818 7888 5044
Passcode: 928467
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kda0Tl7Nvt>

 To request a sign language interpreter for a board meeting, go to <http://www.ghi.coop/content/interpreter-request-form>, contact us by phone (301-474-4161) or fax (301-474-4006).

Regular Board meetings are open to Members
For more information, visit our website: www.ghi.coop

Thanksgiving Cheer Expands In a Multi-Continent Zoom

by Sylvia Lewis

Thanksgiving 2020 will be remembered because the pandemic prevented gathering with relatives and friends, sharing turkey and trimmings and catching up on family news. Covid-19 restrictions caused a rethink and adaptation of the annual celebration but, with the help of Zoom, traditions were salvaged and even expanded.

Barbara Havekost, longtime Greenbelt resident and former city Human Resource Officer, expanded her celebration across nine time zones. In previous years she would join many relatives at the home of one of her children as they gathered around a large table to enjoy the company and meal. This year she ate Thanksgiving dinner with two senior neighbors who are in her pod. At first glance this appears to be a severe cutback in festivities but she had started celebrating long before she sat down to eat the turkey and trimmings.

In describing her day, Havekost said, "Prior to our lovely 'gerontocracy' dinner, I Zoomed with 21 members of my family: aunts, uncles, children and grandchildren, who were spread



out across California, Texas, Arizona, Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, London and Denmark." She noted that the tricky part was coordinating the various time zones. Havekost remarked that her grandson in Denmark commented that "he was glad the U.S. no longer planned to invade Denmark," referring to the kerfuffle over Trump's desire to buy Greenland. Stated Havekost, "We all had lots to be grateful for."

The big news of the day was that Havekost will become a great-grandmother in May thanks to her granddaughter in Denver. "Funny," said Havekost, "I don't feel like a great-grandmother!"

Havekost will certainly remember Thanksgiving 2020 because she was able to enjoy visiting, albeit remotely, with many more members of her family than usual.

Can News Review readers top how widespread her celebration was, how many people were involved, and the wonderful news they were able to share? Send your stories to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Lions Plan GoFundMe Drive; Pancake Breakfast Canceled

by Harvey Hauptman and Konrad Herling



Members of the Greenbelt Lions Club gather at a meeting in 2019.

For many decades, shoppers at the Greenbelt Co-op have chatted with volunteers from the Greenbelt Lions Club who expressed their purpose: Help the Lions Help the Blind. People who made contributions would have received a white cane to express the club's appreciation. For more than 70 years, the Greenbelt Lions have embraced their mission to help the vision- and hearing-impaired in this community and around the world.

These contributions have helped in so many ways, including providing for free eye exams and glasses, distributing coats and toys to Greenbelt students in need and supporting the Lions Leader Dog Training Facility, which pro-

vides free aid dogs nationwide.

There are numerous other benefits derived from supporting the Greenbelt Lions, which is part of Lions Club International, spanning across the Washington area, nationally and internationally. Lions also help provide support for those whose lives have been severely challenged due to hurricanes, fires and the pandemic, which has exacerbated homelessness and hunger.

Support from local businesses and organizations such as the Greenbelt American Legion, Beltway Plaza, Mission BBQ, Hook & Reel Cajun Seafood and Bar, The Rotary Club of Greenbelt and the Free Art for All has been invaluable to the Greenbelt Lions Club. All of these groups have contributed to the Club's Annual Pancake Breakfast with Santa. Unfortunately, the Breakfast had to be canceled this year due to the pandemic. However, the

Greenbelt Lions Club's main source of funding comes from individual contributions. It's clear the pandemic has made fundraising efforts more challenging.

So, what do the Lions do to keep hope alive and provide service for those in need? One can see a lot is at stake. To help the Lions continue to offer these services and programs for Greenbelt, they are asking for contributions via their GoFundMe campaign, with a goal to raise \$7,000. See the Lions' Facebook page (facebook.com/GBLions) for a link to the GoFundMe campaign to submit contributions.

One hundred percent of the monies raised will go directly to efforts the Greenbelt Lions support. As they are now in their 70th year of providing these services to the Greenbelt area, they are tagging their effort as 7K for 70 years. Each contribution is a priceless gift to Greenbelt.

Rotary Food Drives



PHOTO BY SASCH EDU

Greenbelt Rotary and students collected nonperishable food items from Schrom Fest and at Beltway Plaza, boxed 30 care packages for Greenbelt neighbors in need, and delivered them to Eleanor Roosevelt High School on Friday, November 20. Some packages were also distributed through Greenbelt Elementary School. The December 12 Rotary Food Drive will support Springhill Lake Elementary School. Pictured from left are Alex Molodin, President of Greenbelt Rotary; Mojisola Edu; Mo Edu; Reginald McNeill, ERHS principal; and Vijayanand Kowtha, Secretary of Greenbelt Rotary.

Create Beautiful Wrapping Paper

A free Artful Afternoon at-home workshop will launch online on Sunday, December 6. Artist-in-Residence Racquel Keller will show participants of all ages how to use ordinary materials and objects to create beautiful, printed wrapping paper for any occasion. Participants can sign up at greenbeltdmd.gov/recreation to receive a materials list and a link to the instructional video. This program is sponsored by the Greenbelt Recreation ARTS program as part of the city's Festival of Lights.

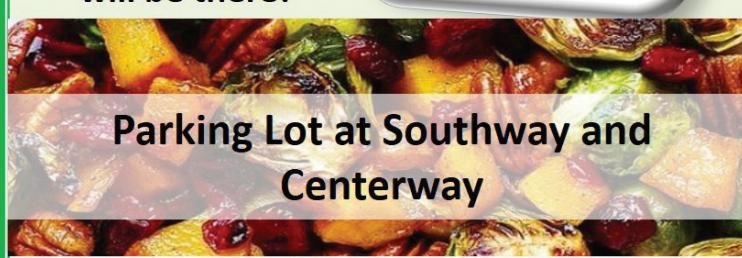


Holiday Market, Sunday, December 6 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Enjoy a foretaste of holiday cheer. All your favorite vendors will be there!



Parking Lot at Southway and Centerway



A NEW ERA FOR THE NEW DEAL CAFÉ

Tell us what you think

Take the New Deal Café Online Survey

<https://tinyurl.com/NDC2020Survey>

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Berwyn Heights MD 20740
Office: 301-272-1558



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WORKSESSION continued from page 1

business hiring a person before December 15 is eligible for a grant of up to \$15,000.

During the worksession, Alsobrooks expressed wonderment and frustration that despite offering rental assistance, the county found that residents who needed the help were unable to fill out the application for rental assistance and the county had to request that landlords complete the applications on behalf of renters. Alsobrooks noted that, in contrast, there were hours-long lines around the block for gift cards.

Alsobrooks pointed out that the pandemic has revealed and underscored county issues that already existed – especially in terms of food insecurity. The county typically provides about 200,000 meals a year to its residents, but this year it has provided two million to date.

In response to a question by Greenbelt's Bob Rand, Alsobrooks spoke of the county's plans to coordinate rollout for the Covid-19 vaccine. She noted that people are fearful of it so part of the challenge is to build confidence that the vaccine is safe and effective. The county is currently using CARES Act funding to provide proper facilities and supply chain. This includes acquiring refrigeration facilities and developing a protocol for vaccine distribution.

Byrd expressed his desire that the county pass on to municipalities funds from the state and federal governments. Alsobrooks responded that regarding CARES Act funding, Prince George's County was one of the few counties that had shared funds with municipalities. In perhaps an example of how no good deed goes unpunished, she noted that CARES funds had to be spent by December 31 or be returned to the federal government – but that many municipalities had not been effective in disbursing the funds. Alsobrooks was concerned to get all CARES Act funding constructively spent by the deadline but the funds were in the control of the municipalities. Greenbelt City Treasurer Bertha Gaymon assured the meeting that Greenbelt is on track to spend every dollar. She told the meeting that the city met the 60 percent level on November 20 with ~\$852K spent and will hit 80 percent this week, with a month to go. City Manager Nicole Ard also thanked the county for its help to Economic Development Coordinator Charisse Liggins in getting information out to potential restaurant applicants.

Alsobrooks noted in response to a concern by Councilmember Judith Davis about continuing fiscal impacts, that though they are doing better than expected due to CARES Act funding and have not seen a loss in personal tax revenues, the county expects the crunch will come in the next fiscal year, with hotel and entertainment taxes especially hard hit. Alsobrooks expects a lot of tough choices and anticipates hiring freezes, no cost-of-living adjustments and she is already moving to preemptively tighten belts ahead of time. She hopes that more federal assistance will come from the next administration or that there will be a compromise bill now before the year's end.

Post-Pandemic Planning

The county has formed a forward task force to study how

to become stronger and more resourceful after the pandemic. Considerations include how to address the achievement and opportunity gap of kids who are struggling with educational delivery limitations to make sure they get back on track. There are plans, for example, to make programming and tutoring available all year long – with free summer sessions, especially for those students who are disadvantaged or who have learning disabilities that make electronic delivery difficult or impossible. The task force is also focusing on attracting grocery stores to underserved county areas to address food insecurities revealed by the pandemic.

Additional planning involves the police reform workgroup which is looking at hiring practices, training and policies regarding use of force.

Alsobrooks discussed the effects of Governor Hogan's veto of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, also known as the Kirwan education reform package, which would have increased funding for education. An additional factor is revenue losses experienced at all levels of government, which lead to the potential loss of education funding from the state to the county. Exacerbating this, many parents withheld their children from kindergarten during the pandemic, preferring to register them a year late rather than have them in remote learning. Because funding projections are based on kindergarten attendance, there is a potential loss of funding that will trickle through the county education system.

Additional concerns aired at the meeting will be addressed in a future article.

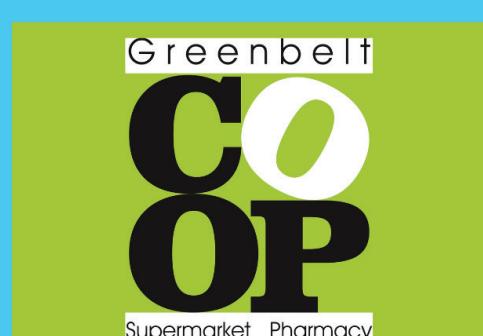


The beautiful fall weather brings fishing enthusiasts to the Lake.

PHOTO BY STEVE BUCCA



PHOTO BY GARY M BROWN



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In Historic Roosevelt Center
www.greenbelt.coop



Beverages, Baked Goods & Wearables for Everyone!

- Fresh Baked Goods
- Apple Cider-Local
- Egg Nog-Traditional & Non-Dairy
- Drinking Chocolate
- Tea-Variety of Brands
- Coffee-Fair Trade, Local & Traditional Brands
- Andes Gifts-Fair Trade

Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department,
www.greenbeltdmd.gov/police
 Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

November 22, 11:27 a.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A man armed with a handgun in the rear parking lot of Beltway Plaza approached a woman and announced a robbery. He then took her purse and fled.

Theft

November 22, 1:29 p.m., 6000 block Greenbelt Road. A man came to the Gold-N-Diamonds jewelry store and asked to look at a watch. The employee handed it to him and the man fled with it. He is described as 5 feet 6 inches tall, 190 pounds, wearing a gray hooded sweatshirt, gray pants, a black hat, and a gold chain with an eagle on it. He also had a tattoo of a cross on his forehead.

Burglary

November 22, 8:19 p.m., 7815 Mandan Road. Clothes were taken and the interior of a residence was vandalized after entry was gained by forcing open the front door.

Vandalism

November 24, 2:10 p.m., 99 Centerway. The exterior of the Greenbelt Youth Center and two outbuildings were spray-painted.

Vehicle Crime

A grey 2014 Aura ILX with Virginia tags UWP9460 was stolen November 22 from 6100 block Breezewood Drive. A silver 2017 KIA Sorrento bearing rear Maryland tag 4CT6511 was taken from the 7800 block Hanover Parkway.

A 2014 Ford Fusion reported stolen September 8 near Ora Glen Drive and Ora Court was recovered November 23 by Richmond City police at an undisclosed

location. The tags on the vehicle at the time of theft, Maryland 7EC3365, were not recovered and are still out as stolen.

Rear Maryland tag 2EA2119 was taken from the 6000 block Springhill Drive.

Four tires and rims were taken from each of two vehicles at 7810 Walker Drive and 6320 Golden Triangle Drive.

On November 19 while a woman was pumping gas at the Greenbelt Road Exxon Station, her vehicle was entered and her carry bag containing a laptop computer, hard drive, her driver's license and a credit card were taken.

Items were taken from three possibly unlocked vehicles. A purse was taken from the 7600 block Ora Glen Drive; a bag of hand tools from the 9100 block Springhill Lane; and shoes, clothing and money from the 5400 block Stream Bank Lane.

Windows were broken out and hand and power tools were taken from the 9100 block Edmonston Court. Two vehicles in the 7600 block Mandan Road had windows broken out and the vehicles rummaged through.

A purse was taken from an unlocked vehicle in the 7600 block Ora Glen Drive. A purse was also taken near the same location when the vehicle key was dropped by the owner. It was located next to the vehicle. A bag of hand tools was taken from a possibly unlocked vehicle.

A rear passenger window was broken out and damaged the bed cover of a truck in the 9000 block Breezewood Terrace.

Police Toy Drive Replaces Shop with a Cop in 2020

Instead of the traditional Shop with a Cop event, this year the Greenbelt police will hold a Toy Drive. Drop off new, unwrapped toys at the Police Station, 550 Crescent Road, between November 30 - December 13.



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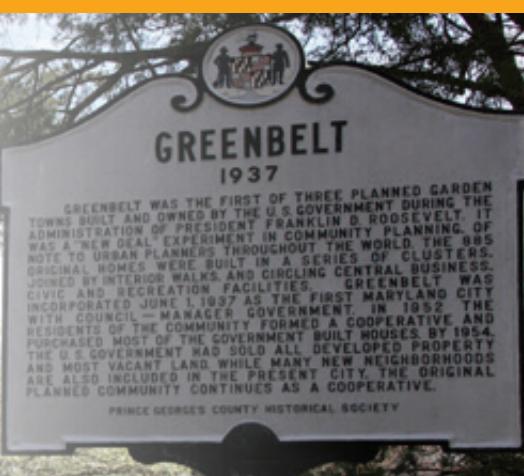
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EVICTIONS continued from page 1

Is It Premature?

Mach consistently voted no on all amendments and the ordinance itself, along with the rent freeze ordinance, stating that it was premature and that council needed to meet in a worksession to flesh out the details of how the freezes would work. Pope also called for a worksession on the issue.

Although Davis voted for all three ordinances, she said "this is the most backward way of doing an ordinance" bemoaning the fact that council had not worked with staff to work out all the "nitty gritty points" around the freezes.

Authority

City Solicitor Todd Pounds assured council that the city has the authority to control the activities of landlords within its boundaries. Since the city is not involved in the eviction process, or even informed of requests to evict a tenant, they would have to rely upon tenants reporting that they had received an eviction notice. The city does not have the authority to stop an eviction nor put evicted tenants back into their units. Instead, the city would have to issue a municipal infraction to fine the landlord, which Pounds would then prosecute.

Penalties

Pounds told council that the courts were unlikely to impose the daily fines the three freeze ordinances would impose. How-

ever, council did not discuss the proposed penalties and did not change the penalty language in any of the three ordinances.

Enforcement

Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hraby urged council to consider the staff time and resources to enforce an ordinance if it is not going to prevail in court. She pointed out that the city has never been involved in landlord-tenant issues. Jordan and Putens called the ordinance unenforceable while Roberts disagreed.

Impact on Landlords

Putens, Pope and Jordan raised concerns about landlords who may have had to move out and rent their unit when they lost their job or had to move. Pope pointed out that landlords are required to maintain their units and pay the mortgage and other fees due. Without receiving rent, how would they do that? Currently, tenants can get rental assistance that provides landlords with income. However, that aid is expiring.

Roberts doubted that many evictions were affecting small landlords while Jordan said there has been a large increase in foreclosures related to evictions in condominiums.

Pope suggested that the city partner with property owners to see how to help people stay in

their homes and not chase landlords out of town or into financial ruin.

Scope of Freeze

Pope wanted to limit the ban to evictions due to Covid-19. However, Davis and Byrd opposed such a limit. Davis asked how the city could prevent people who could afford to pay their rent from taking advantage of the freeze to not do so. Pounds admitted that is a "tremendous problem" but he had no idea how the city could prevent that from happening. Roberts felt that a tenant would have to testify to establish why they could not pay, which he called a built-in mechanism.

Greenbelt Homes Inc. (GHI) President Stefan Brodd raised another issue, pointing out that county law defines housing cooperatives as rental facilities. He requested that evictions for failure to pay co-op fees be permitted. He noted that GHI fully expects its subsidiary Greenbelt Development Corporation which does rent apartments, would have been covered by the freeze. If it passed, in addition, members who sublet their units, and who are required to get city rental licenses, would also be covered, according to Davis.

Davis suggested using the waiver provision of the ordinance but it is unclear how that process would work. Council discussed GHI's situation further under the rent freeze ordinance.

Rent Freeze

A second ordinance would prohibit landlords from raising rents effective from the date of passage through December 31, 2021, or 60 days after the end of the county state of emergency. At the request of Davis, the freeze only exempts landlords with one unit, not 10 as provided in the original ordinance.

GHI's Brodd told council that if this ordinance applied to its fees, GHI is projecting a shortfall of up to \$400,000, which it has no margin to pay. He told council that GHI has done a lot

to help members who cannot pay their fees but asked how GHI was to come up with an additional \$400,000 if it cannot raise its fees on members. While Roberts felt certain that the ordinance would not affect GHI as members do not pay rent, Byrd did not think that the solution was to allow GHI to increase its fees by the planned 2.6 percent.

Davis worried that if the ordinance applied to GHI, council was going to have to consider condominium fees, as well.

The rent freeze passed on a 4-3 vote with Mach, Pope and Putens opposed.

Late Fees

The final ordinance, prohibiting landlords with more than one rental unit from imposing late fees, passed on a 5-2 vote with Pope and Putens opposed.

On a motion from Davis, council added a requirement that each landlord will offer a repayment plan to make back payments with two years to repay past rent. Pounds cautioned that this provision could create a big problem. In real life, suits for repayment are difficult and expensive and landlords instead send past due accounts to a collection agency within 90 to 180 days.



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Brick Townhome with Addition Full bath on main level. Remodeled kitchen & bath. Central A/C, refinished hardwood flrs., shaded & fenced backyard.

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Addition - Backs to Woodlands Completely remodeled throughout; half bath on 1st flr. w/ one HVAC system. Fenced yard, shed & raised deck.

Brick Townhome 2 Bedroom GHI townhome remodeled throughout. Modern kitchen with s/s dishwasher. Hardwood both levels. \$169,900

Upper Level One Bedroom GHI home with full-sized washer and dryer in separate laundry room. Refinished hardwood flooring throughout. Nice!

2 BR Townhome Remodeled GHI home w/ new carpet, fresh paint & ceramic bath. Priced to sell at \$124,900

**Your Greenbelt Specialists
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Missing Seeing In-Person Art? Visit These Virtual Galleries

by Julia Arbutus

As the world has shifted online, some organizations in Greenbelt have found creative ways to move their artistic initiatives online. Here are three community spaces offering virtual art galleries and accepting submissions.

Greenbelt Arts Center

Many theater spaces have had to grapple with the move to the digital world since the beginning of the pandemic made in-person gatherings impossible, but while some have resisted the change, the Greenbelt Arts Center (GAC) has implemented a new digital strategy that has allowed it to expand its offerings.

“Basically, what GAC did is we just moved into the 21st century,” said Linda Thompson, GAC’s gallery manager.

In addition to holding virtual performances, the GAC art gallery, which Thompson curates and installs, has also moved online.

The switch to a digital gallery was not hard for Thompson, who already had experience shifting to an online space when her work at the National Museum of Language moved online. It has also been a “nice change” to not have to physically install the artwork too, she said, laughing.

The digital space has given GAC room to feature about 20 pieces of an artist’s work, double the number that would fit in the GAC lobby, and it has given GAC the opportunity to expand the opportunities it can offer.

“We’ll be digital even after [a vaccine is available],” said Win Britt, president of the GAC board. “Part of being an expansive and inclusive community theater is creating opportunities for people to get involved.”

For the art gallery, that might mean hybrid exhibits that theatergoers can view in-person but also go online to see additional work.

“Maintaining and expanding our digital capabilities makes sense when you think of the younger generation,” Thompson said. “If you want to pull in younger people, it only makes sense to have something they’re familiar with.” The current GAC virtual gallery can be seen at greenbeltartscenter.org/gac-digital-gallery-scott-bringen/.

Greenbelt News Review

When Rahul Mehta was working on fixing the Greenbelt News Review’s photo gallery, he had an idea to expand the News Review’s gallery space to include artwork.

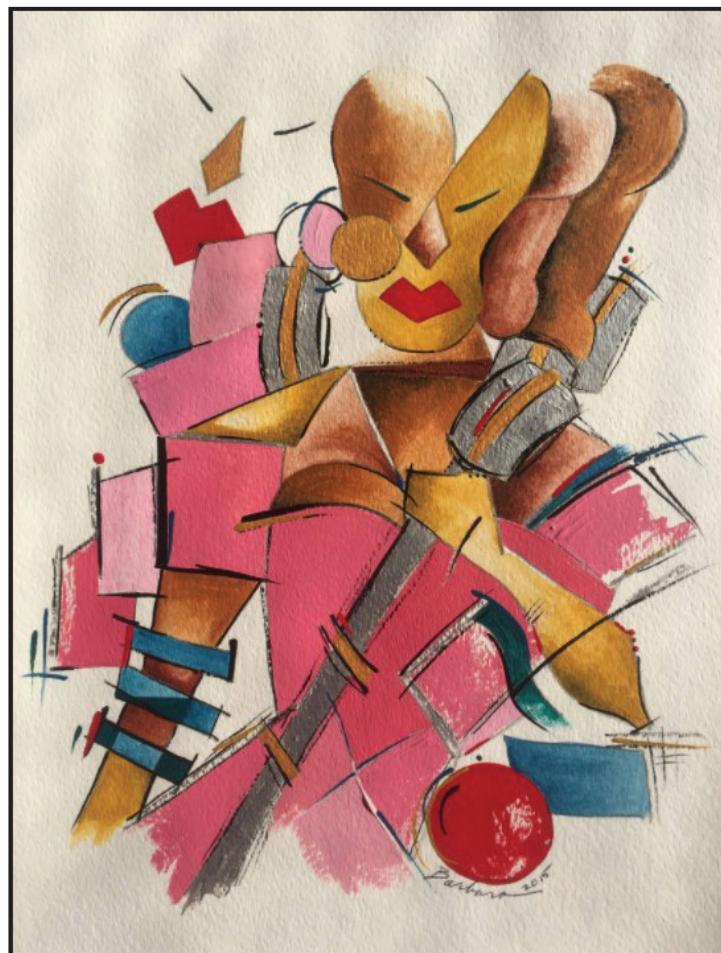
He took his skills as a webmaster and teamed up with Letty Bonnell, a retired art history professor from Loyola University to create the News Review Art Gallery. Bonnell helped curate the gallery, which is currently composed of 12 pieces by four artists.

“We’re trying to highlight Greenbelt artists of all types,” Bonnell said. “We want to cast a wide net.”

A virtual art gallery means people can see the art anywhere and at any time, something that is not lost on Mehta.

“This is more permanent,” Mehta said. “People can visit and re-visit and enjoy the artwork again and again.”

Though the gallery is still in



A painting titled **Jazz Singer Fuchsia** by Barbara Joann Combs is on display at the new virtual art gallery at GreenbeltNewsReview.com.

- Photos Courtesy the News Review



A pottery piece by Gina Mai Denn in the News Review gallery

its infancy, Bonnell and Mehta have big plans for the future. They would like to showcase pictures of performance art and mixed media pieces and even curate a Children’s Art Gallery. Hopefully, they will soon receive enough art submissions to have rotating galleries.

“The more art Rahul and I can look at, the happier we will be,” Bonnell said.

Artists can submit their work to the News Review at this link: greenbeltnewsreview.com/art-gallery-submission-form/. The submission page only allows artists to submit three pieces at a time, but Bonnell and Mehta encourage artists to submit more than once. The actual gallery may be seen at greenbeltnewsreview.com/art-gallery/.

Greenbelt Recreation Arts

Amanda Demos Larsen has been posting art she has seen around Greenbelt on social media for years, but since the pandemic started, she has tried to post a lot more.

“We can’t have a real art show in person, but what a great opportunity to share what people are doing online,” said Larsen, who works as an arts education

specialist for Greenbelt Recreation Arts.

Larsen has facilitated the move of the city’s arts programs online, which she said has been easier for classes that require less hands-on training. Greenbelt Recreation Arts has also hosted two virtual tours of local artists’ studios.

Larsen posts a mix of professional and amateur art on the Greenbelt Recreation Arts Facebook and Instagram pages. The department does not have a designated public relations coordinator, which has made finding and curating the art on top of Larsen’s everyday duties quite time-consuming. Still, she believes the arts posts are an important part of reaching out to the community, whether the artists are professionals, or in the process of learning.

“I’m interested in helping our community come together and I can do that by sharing art,” Larsen said.

Artists can submit their work to the Greenbelt Recreation Arts by emailing alarsen@greenbeltdmd.gov.

Julia Arbutus is a University of Maryland graduate student in journalism.

Holiday Market December 6 Caps Tough, Successful Year

by Cathie Meetre

The Greenbelt Holiday Farmers Market, held in the parking lot between the Aquatic & Fitness Center and the Community Center, will take place Sunday, December 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Normally coinciding with the Greenbelt Festival of Lights Juried Art and Craft Fair’s Sunday

session, the market flies solo this year. Nearly all its regular vendors will participate.

But earlier this year, on May 1, two weeks before the scheduled opening on Mother’s Day, there was no certainty of when the 2020 farmers market could open. Markets had received guidance from the Maryland Department of Agriculture but were waiting for the Prince George’s County Department of Planning, Inspection and Enforcement (DPIE) direction on vendor spacing. The jury was out on precautions and the Greenbelt Market board – concerned about risks – even considered canceling the market rather than endanger the health of staff, vendors and visitors.

Just in time, DPIE issued guidance and board members rapidly redesigned the market layout to obtain permits and inspections. Almost overnight, the market was off and running. Supplies of (scarce and expensive) hand sanitizer, orange construction fencing and yellow caution tape were obtained, vendors contacted, insurances paid and volunteers coordinated. Against the odds, the market opened on schedule – but short two vendor spaces (and the four vendors who would have alternated in them) and with no room for community organizations.

Ongoing Concern

Although opening was a success, operations were fraught with tension. Unlike the cheerful agora of yore, a more business-like vibe was apparent. No music to linger by, no eating and drinking or socializing. An austere market – yet still bringing fresh fruit and vegetables and, even with hails at a distance, a sense of community.

The closure of the pool storage area in which tents, tables and other paraphernalia are stored between markets created some logistical problems. Instead, the market used a board member’s small but tightly packed car for its gear (never underestimate the cargo space of a Honda Fit): two tents, four tables, four A-frame signs, six chairs, eight 24-lb weights, 200 yards of plastic fencing and two storage boxes of stuff. It’s constantly warm and the gear is loosely packed under the pool, so it dries out – but this year, a rainy day meant the car’s contents had to be spread out, dried and repacked.

The City of Greenbelt’s team was stalwart. City Manager Nicole Ard, City Clerk Bonita An-



Lynne Ferguson distributes fresh turkeys to a long line of Thanksgiving cooks.

PHOTO BY FRANCES IPPOLITI

derson, Director of Planning and Community Development Terri Hruby and Public Works Director Jim Sterling and their respective teams were key to sustaining one of the few in-person activities still available to the community.

Financial Impacts

Tight space restrictions made the market unable to host sponsors, so it did not request sponsorships, thus reducing income. Spacing rules decreased overall vendor slots and thus vendor fees that normally cover a large fraction of market costs. Sanitizer, tape, fencing and signage all added expense. Fortunately, prior conservative financial management gave the market the reserves to function (it normally a little more than breaks even) but leaves a much-depleted piggy bank. The board plans a fund-raising drive to restore the market’s ability to face future turmoil.

A Successful Season

Despite the concerns, the community, realizing that the market was probably the safest possible place to shop, came forth to purchase. Though socializing was discouraged, there remained a muted but palpable human connection. Fewer people attended but they came alone and focused on purchasing. Vendors felt they had a reasonably successful season, when all was considered. Vendors and visitors alike mostly kept to the rules but the assistance of the Greenbelt Community Emergency Response Team was especially appreciated. A few visitors reacted to the constraints with hostility, but the vast majority appreciated the attention to safety.

In only her second year as market master, Frances Ippoliti was a tower of strength. She was patient and caring to visitors, firm but friendly and watchful for chinks in the market’s armor. Each week required additional volunteers, placing extra burdens on a limited pool of helpers. But the volunteers came through, week after week, during summer heat and an unprecedented series of fall downpours.

The market board is looking forward to a more normal 2021. It will ask the community for support, recruit volunteers and suggest updated standards to DPIE. To read more about the market, check out vendors at the Holiday Market or to volunteer or make a donation, go to GreenbeltFarmersMarket.org.